

Amendments to the Drawings

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.121(d)(1), attached hereto are three annotated sheets depicting changes made to drawing Figures 1, 2, and 6. The attached Figures 1 and 2 have been amended to comply with 37 CFR § 1.84 (o) by adding the "PRIOR ART" legend. The attached Figure 6 has been amended to delete reference number 45.

Also attached hereto are three replacement sheets of drawings, incorporating the changes made to Figures 1, 2, and 6, which replace the drawing sheets originally submitted with the application.

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicants hereby affirm the telephonic provisional election made on April 2, 2008, of (i) Group I, claims 1, 3-14, 16, and 17 and (ii) the species of claim 3.

The written description portion of the specification, claims 1, 3, 5-14, 16, and 17, the abstract of the disclosure, and the drawing figures have been amended. Apparatus claim 4, and non-elected method claims 18 and 19, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 20-22 have been added. Claims 1-3, 5-17, and 20-22 are now pending in the application, with pending claims 2 and 15 withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 1 and 20 are independent. The objections and rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The specification has been editorially amended for conformance with 37 CFR § 1.77(c), for consistency, and to correct any informalities. The abstract has been editorially amended for conformance with 37 CFR § 1.72(b). The drawing figures have been amended as described above in the "Amendments to the Drawings" section.

The claims have been amended to overcome the objections and rejections, and in general to more fully comply with U.S. practice. The written description has been amended to overcome certain of the grounds of rejection associated with the rejection of claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Support for the aforementioned amendment of the written description is found in the disclosure of original claims 8 and 9.

However, with regard to two portions of the rejection under § 112, first paragraph, the rejection is respectfully traversed. First, with regard to the rejection of claim 8, contrary to the examiner's assertion, the written description does describe "how the third reservoir is pressurized to a higher pressure than the second glue reservoir." (For the record, Applicants also note that "how the third reservoir is pressurized to a higher pressure than the second glue reservoir" is not even part of original claim 8.) At specification page 7, lines 22-26, Applicants disclose that

[t]he pump 106 presses the glue into the third glue reservoir 103, which comprises the part of the glue line 110 following the pump 106, the glue tank 113, and the part of the glue line 110 between the glue tank 113 and the pressure regulator 105. The third glue reservoir 103 is under a higher pressure than the second 102. It thus serves as a pressure reservoir with respect to the second glue reservoir 102. (Emphasis added) (See Figure 6)

Then, at specification page 7, lines 27-28, Applicants disclose that "[t]he pressure regulator 105 forwards glue from the third glue reservoir to the second" and that "[i]t can reduce the

pressure to the pressure prevailing in the second glue reservoir 102." Clearly, Applicants' disclosure in this regard more than complies with the written description requirement.

Second, with regard to the rejection of claims 12 and 13, the written description does describe a "glue circulation." At specification page 8, lines 17-19, Applicants disclose that "[a] regular glue circulation between the first 101 and second glue reservoir 102 can be made possible by a glue drain 114" and that "[h]ere, the glue can advantageously pass through a pressure reducer/valve 123." See, e.g., the depiction of line 114 and pressure reducer/valve 123 in Applicants' Figure 6. Again, Applicants' disclosure in this regard complies with the written description requirement.

Turning back to the claim amendments, claim 1 has been amended not only as described above, but still further to define an apparatus that includes "a third glue reservoir disposed downstream of the first glue reservoir and upstream of the second glue reservoir and configured to supply the glue to the second glue reservoir in a pressurized state." Support for the recitation is found, for example, in the above-quoted disclosure at specification page 7, lines 22-28, and in Figure 6.

New apparatus claims 20-22 have been added to further define the scope of protection sought for Applicants' invention.

Entry of each of the amendments is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) - Sugimura

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,876,502 to Sugimura et al. (hereinafter "Sugimura").

The rejection under § 102(b) based on Sugimura is respectfully deemed to be obviated. The disclosure of Sugimura does not anticipate Applicants' presently claimed invention.

As indicated above in the introductory remarks, instant claim 1 defines an apparatus that includes, *inter alia*, "a third glue reservoir disposed downstream of the first glue reservoir and upstream of the second glue reservoir and configured to supply the glue to the second glue reservoir in a pressurized state."

Sugimura's gluing apparatus is structurally and functionally different from Applicants' presently claimed invention. Sugimura discloses a fiberboard box manufacturing machine and a corresponding gluing apparatus (column 1, lines 6-8). The gluing apparatus has a detection sensor 3 (for detecting the sheets which are to be provided with glue), an encoder 7 and two glue guns 8a, 8b which are controlled individually by an electrical control panel 9 (column 6, lines 18-23). The glue is transported from a glue tank 14 by suitable glue pipes 16 to the glue guns 8a, 8b (column 6, lines 66-67). The glue tank 14 is provided with pressure by an electro-pneumatic converter 17, so that the glue can be transferred - through the glue pipes 18 - to the glue guns 8a, 8b.

More specifically, see Sugimura's Figure 1 and the disclosure at column 7, lines 9-19, where Sugimura teaches that

[t]he pneumatic pressure converted from an electrical signal by the electro-pneumatic converter 17 is supplied to the glue tank 14 through an air pipe 29, and the primary pressure of the electro-pneumatic converter 17 is supplied into the water pressure-feeding tank 19 through an air pipe 29. The glue 13 and the water 18 contained in the tanks 14 and 19, respectively, are pressurized by the supplied compressed air and fed to the three-way switching valve 15. By the path switching of this three-way switching valve, the glue 13 or the water 18 is selectively supplied to the glue guns 8a and 8b.
(Emphasis added)

That, however, is certainly not Applicants' presently claimed invention, in which the configuration includes a third glue reservoir disposed downstream of the first glue reservoir and upstream of the second glue reservoir and configured to supply the glue to the second glue reservoir in a pressurized state. Furthermore, Applicants' claimed apparatus supplies glue to the glue valves to provide the glue profile, not "the glue 13 or the water 18" as taught by Sugimura.

Since Sugimura does not meet each feature of the claimed invention, Sugimura does not anticipate the invention defined by Applicants' instant claim 1.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 3-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugimura in view of U.S. Patent No.

4,655,029 to Weiss. Claims 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugimura in view of Weiss, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,660,468 to Okajima et al. ("Okajima").

Each of the aforementioned rejections under § 103(a) is also respectfully deemed to be obviated. Claims 3, 5-7, and 10 all depend from claim 1. Regardless of what Weiss and Okajima may disclose, the disclosure of neither of the references rectifies any of the above-described deficiencies of Sugimura. Weiss discloses a method and an apparatus for filling bottles with a liquid (column 1, lines 7-9). To avoid prolonged contact of the liquid (such as beer) with air, Weiss teaches a complex liquid and gaseous pipeline that includes one liquid container (2) and two pressure containers (11, 13).

Okajima discloses "glue preparing equipment" for manufacturing starchy glue as an adhesive for corrugated cardboard. In manufacturing starchy glue by the so-called "Stein-Hall method," two glue tanks 17, 25 are provided which are connected by glue pipes. Based on the pressure in each tank, liquid (water, glue) can be transported via pipelines in the other tank. These teachings, however, do not rectify any of the deficiencies of Sugimura.

Furthermore, there is simply no teaching in any of Sugimura, Weiss, and Okajima that would have led one to select the references and combine them, let alone in a way that would produce

the invention defined by any of Applicants' pending claims. Weiss, for example, is directed to a technical field (i.e., filling machines) that is different from that of the instant application, and is, therefore, not relevant.

Accordingly, the combined disclosures of Sugimura and Weiss, and of Sugimura, Weiss, and Okajima, would not have rendered obvious the invention defined by any of Applicants' pending claims 3, 5-7, and 10.

New claims 20-22 have been added to further define the scope of protection sought for Applicants' invention. New claims 20-22 are also allowable. Since independent claim 20 includes at least the features discussed above with respect to the rejections over Sugimura, Weiss, and Okajima, the references neither anticipate nor would have rendered obvious the apparatus defined by any of claims 20-22.

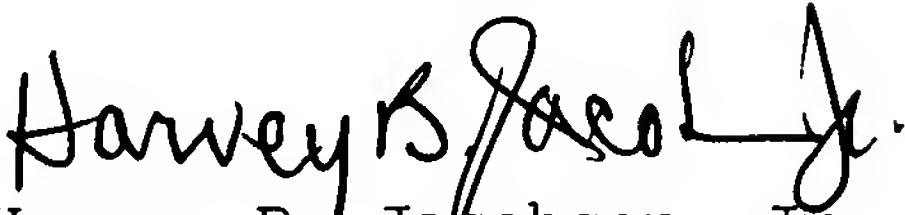
In view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that an

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interview might expedite prosecution, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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